



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

6 October 1980

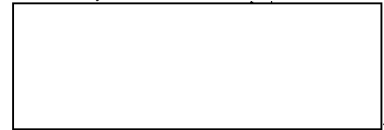
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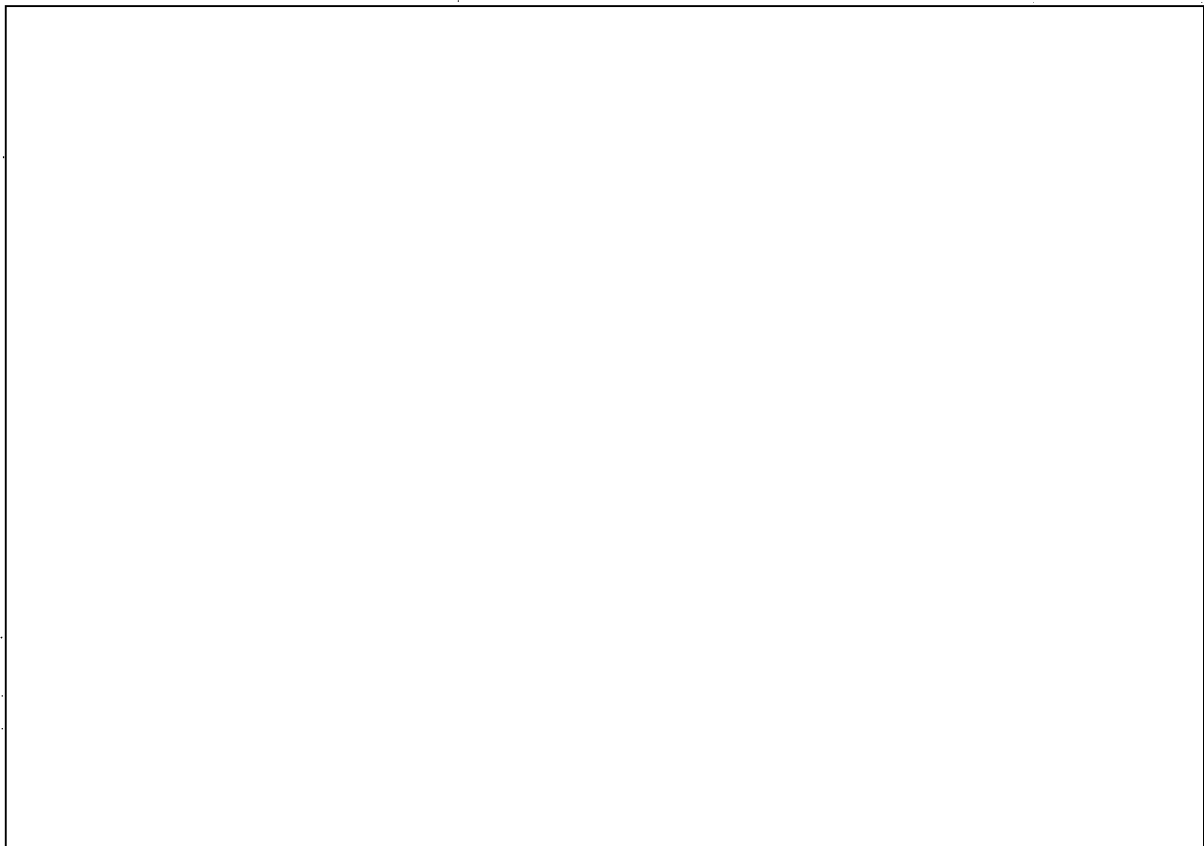
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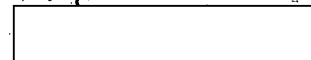
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SITUATION REPORT

IRAN-IRAQ

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Iranian Comments on AWACS

Bani-Sadr and Prime Minister Rajai this weekend publicly criticized the US for deploying warning aircraft to Saudi Arabia. They warned Riyadh that the AWACS presence in Saudi Arabia is "dangerous" and an indication that the US backs Iraq. Khomeini also attacked the Gulf states for backing Iraq and again urged Iraqi Shias to overthrow the Baathist government; he did not comment on the AWACS. Iraq has also publicly criticized the AWACS deployment but was careful to say that the decision was one for Saudi Arabia alone to take.

Tehran probably hopes to encourage Saudi Shias to demonstrate their opposition to the AWACS later this month during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the Hajj. Last year Iranian pilgrims staged pro-Khomeini demonstrations in Mecca and urged Saudi Shias to riot against the royal family. Saudi authorities are concerned that the Iranians will do so again this year and have reinforced their security forces in Shia towns.

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